

Message Text

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TAGS: SCUL, HA

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LECTURER LEON FRANCOIS HOFFMANN

1. DR. LEON FRANCOIS HOFFMANN, PROFESSOR OF FRENCH AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, RECENTLY CONDUCTED TWO HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC LECTURES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE. REPRESENTING THE BEST OF THE AMERICAN SCHOLARLY TRADITION, HOFFMANN DISPLAYS A VAST KNOWLEDGE OF HIS SUBJECT MATERIAL, HAS EXCELLENT DICTION, A PLEASING SENSE OF HUMOR AND EXCITES THE ADMIRATION OF THE AUDIENCE THROUGH HIS LUCID PRESENTATION OF HIS THEME.

2. ON JANUARY 8 PROFESSOR HOFFMANN DELIVERED A TYPICALLY WELL ORGANIZED AND PROFOUND LECTURE ENTITLED "L'ETRANGER DANS LE ROMAN HAITIEN" AT THE HAITIAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF 200 INCLUDING MOST OF THE HAITIAN INTELLECTUAL ELITE. HIS CENTRAL POINT: IN THE HAITIAN NOVEL BOTH THE FRENCHMAN AND THE AMERICAN ARE EXCESSIVELY STEREOTYPED; THE HAITIAN NOVEL WILL SHOW INCREASING MATURITY WHEN NOVELISTS LEARN TO "KILL THE FATHER (THE FOREIGNER)," AND IN THIS FREUDIAN TERMINOLOGY, LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM THE SETEREOTYPES EVIDENT THROUGHOUT HAITIAN LITERATURE. AUDIENCE REACTION WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE AND THERE WAS MUCH EXPRESSION OF ADMIRATION FOR THE BRILLIANCE OF THIS AMERICAN PROFESSOR.

3. A WEEK LATER HE LECTURED AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE "EN MARGE DU PREMIER ROMAN HAITIEN: STELLA." SAME BRILLIANCE OF DELIVERY
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AND RESPECT ON THE PART OF THE AUDIENCE. LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME,

PROF. HOFFMANN LECTURED AT THE BNC ON THE USE OF SYMBOLISM IN JACQUES ROUMAIN'S GOUVERNEURS DE LA ROSEE AND ON HAITIAN PRIMITIVE ART AT THE FRENCH INSTITUTE.

4. USIS HAS ASKED HIM SEVERAL TIMES TO LECTURE IN FRENCH ON A USIS-ORIENTED TOPIC BUT HE HAS GRACEFULLY DECLINED FEELING THAT AS A PROFESSOR OF FRENCH HE SHOULD REMAIN WITHIN HIS OWN SUBJECT MATERIAL.

5. PLANNING TO EDIT A SCHOLARLY ANNUAL ON HAITIAN STUDIES, HOFFMANN HAS ALREADY BEEN PROMISED ARTICLES BY NOTED AMERICAN AND HAITIAN SCHOLARS. HAS CONDUCTED A SEMINAR ON HAITI AT PRINCETON FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.

HOFFMANN IS AUTHOR OF ROMANTIQUE ESPANGE, LA PESTE A BARCELONE, REPERTOIRE GEOGRAPHIQUE DE LA COMEDIE HUMAINE AND LE NEGRE ROMANTIQUE. FOR THIS LAST WORK HE WAS AWARDED THE PRIX DE L'ACADEMIE FRANCAISE. HE HAS PUBLISHED THESE WORKS CONCERNED WITH HAITI: L'IMAGE DE LA FEMME DANS LA POESIE HAITIENNE, THE CLIMATE OF HAITIAN POETRY AND LANGUAGES ET RHETORIQUE DANS GOUVERNEURS DE LA ROSEE.

6. CURENTLY HE IS WORKING ON L'EXPRESSION HAITIENNE, DEALING WITH THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN HAITI AND HAITIAN PRIMITIVE ART.

7. BORN IN PARIS, HE RECEIVED HIS EARLY SCHOOLING IN FRANCE AND THEN ATTENDED THE LYCEE FRANCAIS IN NEW YORK, YALE AND PRINCETON UNIVERSITIES.

8. MAY I SUGGEST A LETTER OF THANKS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO A SPIRIT OF MUTUALITY AND FOR THE GENEROUS TIME HE HAS GIVEN WITH NO FINANCIAL REMUNERATION TO THE PROGRAM OF THE H.A.I.
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